Plan for food streets

†1712. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that junk foods, and fast foods are causing maximum harm to the health of youths in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated a plan to make food streets in twenty-five cities;

(c) whether Government has issued any guidelines to protect youths from the above edibles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a), (c) and (d) There are a few studies to indicate a positive correlation between consumption of junk foods including carbonated drinks and obesity leading to diet related chronic non-communicable diseases.

(b) Under the scheme for "Upgradation of the Quality of Street Food", Government has planned to upgrade hygiene and quality of food in 10 streets, one each in cities of tourist importance across the country during the first two years of Eleventh Five Year Plan Period. Cities are to be selected in consultation with Ministry of Tourism and State Governments. The scheme is to be implemented through urban local bodies. The scheme is awaiting final approval.

Government is making efforts to discourage consumption of junk foods including carbonated beverages and make people aware of nutritious and healthy foods.

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written to Health Ministers of all States and Union Territories' and Union Minister of Human Resource Development to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from school and college canteens. Letters have also been written to Chief Ministers of all State and Union Territories' to seriously consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of Junk Food and carbonated drinks from canteens of educational institutes.

Vacancies in Kendriya Vidyalayas in Jharkhand

†1713. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several posts of teachers are lying vacant in Kendriya Vidyalayas in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of the vacancies and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to fill those vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) There are 106 posts of teachers vacant in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in Jharkhand as on 1.3.2008. These include 26 Post Graduate

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.